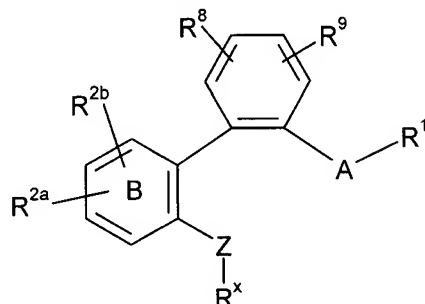


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

A is an optionally substituted aryl, or an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered heterocyclyl ring, or an optionally substituted bicyclic heterocyclyl group;

B is a phenyl or pyridyl ring;

Z is O, S, SO, or SO₂;

R¹ is CO₂R⁴, CN, CONR⁵R⁶, CH₂CO₂R⁴, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted SO₂alkyl, SO₂NR⁵R⁶, NR⁵CONR⁵R⁶, COalkyl, 2H-tetrazol-5-yl-methyl, optionally substituted bicyclic heterocycle or optionally substituted heterocyclyl;

R^{2a} and R^{2b} independently are hydrogen, halogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkoxy, CN, SO₂alkyl, SR⁵, NO₂, optionally substituted aryl, CONR⁵R⁶ or optionally substituted heteroaryl;

R^x is optionally substituted alkyl ~~wherein 1 or 2 of the non-terminal carbon atoms are optionally replaced by a group independently selected from NR⁴, O and SO_n, wherein n is 0, 1 or 2;~~ or R^x represents optionally substituted CQ^aQ^b-heterocyclyl, optionally substituted CQ^aQ^b-bicyclic heterocyclyl or optionally substituted CQ^aQ^b-aryl;

R⁴ is hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl;

R⁵ is hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl;

R⁶ is hydrogen or optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted SO₂aryl, optionally substituted SO₂alkyl, optionally substituted SO₂heteroaryl, CN, optionally substituted CQ^aQ^baryl, optionally substituted CQ^aQ^bheteroaryl or COR⁷;

R⁷ is hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl or optionally substituted aryl;

R⁸ and R⁹ independently are hydrogen, chloro, fluoro, CF₃, C₁₋₃alkoxy or C₁₋₃alkyl;

Q^a and Q^b are independently selected from hydrogen and CH₃;

wherein when A is a 6-membered ring the R¹ substituent and phenyl ring are attached to carbon atoms 1,2-, 1,3- or 1,4- relative to each other, and when A is a five-membered ring or bicyclic heterocyclyl group the R¹ substituent and phenyl ring are attached to substitutable carbon atoms 1,2- or 1,3- relative to each other;

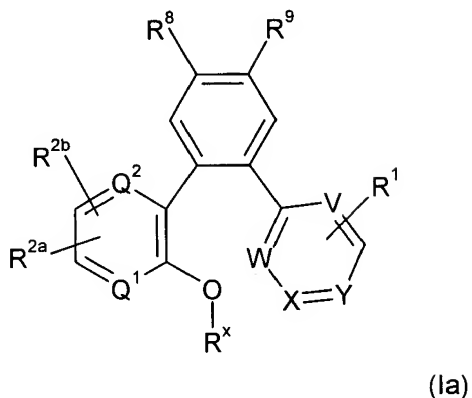
and derivatives thereof;

provided that the compound is not 2-benzyloxy[1,1';2',1'']terphenyl-4"-carboxylic acid[.]; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein when A is a 6-membered ring, the R¹ substituent and phenyl ring are attached to carbon atoms 1,2-, or 1,3- relative to each other.

3. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein A is phenyl, pyridyl, or pyrazinyl.

4. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (Ia):



wherein:

W, X, and Y each are CR¹² or N;

V is CR¹, CR¹² or N;

wherein at least two of W, X, Y or V is CR¹²; and R¹² is independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, CN, optionally substituted CO₂C₁₋₆alkyl, CONR⁵R⁶, NR⁵R⁶, optionally substituted NR⁵COC₁₋₆alkyl, optionally substituted NR⁵COPhenyl, optionally substituted NR⁵COPiperidiny, optionally substituted NR⁵COheterocyclyl, optionally substituted NR⁵SO₂C₁₋₆alkyl, OH, optionally substituted OC₁₋₆alkyl, optionally substituted C₁₋₆alkyl and NR¹⁰R¹¹;

Q¹ and Q² each is CH, or one of Q¹ and Q² is N and the other is CH;

R¹ is CO₂H, optionally substituted CONHSO₂aryl, CH₂CO₂H, SO₂NHCOR⁷, SO₂NHCOC₁₋₆alkyl or tetrazolyl and is positioned 1,2-, or 1,3- relative to the phenyl ring;

R^{2a} and R^{2b} are independently selected from hydrogen, halo, and CF₃;

R^x is optionally substituted C₄₋₈alkyl, or ~~R^x represents optionally substituted~~ CQ^aQ^b-heterocyclyl or optionally substituted CQ^aQ^b-phenyl wherein Q^a and Q^b are independently selected from hydrogen and CH₃;

R⁴ is hydrogen or an optionally substituted C₁₋₆alkyl;

R⁵ is hydrogen or an optionally substituted C₁₋₆alkyl;

R⁶ is hydrogen or an optionally substituted C₁₋₆alkyl, optionally substituted SO₂phenyl, optionally substituted SO₂heterocyclyl group, CN, optionally substituted CH₂phenyl or COR⁷;

R⁷ is hydrogen, optionally substituted heteroaryl or optionally substituted phenyl;

R⁸ and R⁹ independently represent hydrogen, chloro, fluoro, CF₃, C₁₋₃alkoxy or C₁₋₃alkyl; and

R¹⁰ and R¹¹ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a morpholine ring, a 5- or 6-membered lactam ring or a 5- or 6-membered cyclic sulphonamide[[.]] and derivatives thereof[[.]]; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^x is optionally substituted C₁₋₈alkyl, optionally substituted CH₂phenyl, CH₂pyridyl, or CH₂thienyl.

6. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^{2b} is positioned 1,4- relative to the Z substituent and 1,3- relative to the phenyl ring.

7. (Currently Amended) A compound selected from the compounds of Examples 1-90 or a derivative thereof group consisting of:

2-benzyloxy-5-chloro-[1,1';2',1'']terphenyl-3"-carboxylic acid;

(2-benzyloxy-5-chloro-[1,1';2',1'']terphenyl-3"-yl)-acetic acid;

(2-benzyloxy-5-chloro[1,1';2',1'']terphenyl-2"-yl)acetic acid;

(2-benzyloxy-5-chloro[1,1';2',1'']terphenyl-4"-yl)acetic acid;

5"-acetylamino-2-benzyloxy-5-chloro[1,1';2',1'']terphenyl-3"-carboxylic acid;

2-benzyloxy-5-chloro-5"-propionylamino[1,1';2',1'']terphenyl-3"-carboxylic acid;

2-benzyloxy-5-chloro-5"-(2-methylpropanoylamino)-[1,1';2',1'']terphenyl-3"-carboxylic acid;

2-benzyloxy-5"-butyrylamino-5-chloro[1,1';2',1'']terphenyl-3"-carboxylic acid;

2-benzyloxy-5-chloro-5"-[(1-phenyl-methanoyl)amino]-[1,1';2',1'']terphenyl-3"-carboxylic acid;

2-benzyloxy-5-chloro-5"-methanesulfonylamino-[1,1';2',1'']terphenyl-3"-carboxylic acid

5"-amino-2-benzyloxy-5-chloro[1,1';2',2'']-3"-carboxylic acid;

2-benzyloxy-5"-butyrylamino-5-trifluoromethyl[1,1';2',1'']terphenyl-3"-carboxylic acid-3-carboxylic acid;

2-benzyloxy-4"-chloro[1,1';2',1'']terphenyl 2"-carboxylic acid;

2-benzyloxy-5"-fluoro-[1,1';2',1'']terphenyl-2"-carboxylic acid;

2-benzyloxy-4"-fluoro-[1,1';2',1"]terphenyl-2"-carboxylic acid;

2"-benzyloxy-5-fluoro-[1,1';2',1"]terphenyl-3-carboxylic acid;

4"-amino-2-benzyloxy-[1,1';2',1"]terphenyl-3"-carboxylic acid;

5"-acetylamino-2-benzyloxy-[1,1';2',1"]terphenyl-2"-carboxylic acid;

2-benzyloxy-5-chloro-[1,1';2',1"]terphenyl-2"-carboxylic acid;

2-benzyloxy-[1,1';2',1"]terphenyl-3"-carboxylic acid;

2-benzyloxy-5-chloro-[1,1';2',1"]terphenyl-2"-carboxylic acid amide;

5-(2-benzyloxy-5-chloro-[1,1';2',1"]terphenyl-3"-yl)-1H-tetrazole;

N-[1-(2-benzyloxy-5-chloro-[1,1';2',1"]terphenyl-2"-yl)-methanoyl]-benzenesulfonamide;

2-benzyloxy-[1,1';2',1"]terphenyl-4"-sulfonic acid (1-phenyl-methanoyl)-amide;

2-benzyloxy-[1,1';2',1"]terphenyl-4"-sulfonic acid [1-(4-nitro-phenyl)-methanoyl]-amide;

2-benzyloxy-[1,1';2',1"]terphenyl-3"-sulfonic acid acetyl-amide;

5-chloro-2-(4-fluoro-benzyloxy) -[1,1';2',1"]terphenyl-3"-carboxylic acid;

5-chloro-2-(2,4-difluoro-benzyloxy) -[1,1';2',1"] terphenyl-3"-carboxylic acid;

5-chloro-2-(4-chloro-benzyloxy)-[1,1';2',1"] terphenyl-3"carboxylic acid;

5-chloro-2-(2-fluoro-4-chloro-benzyloxy) -[1,1';2',1"] terphenyl-3"carboxylic;

5-chloro-2-(pyridin-2-ylmethoxy) -[1,1';2',1"] terphenyl-3"carboxylic acid;

5-chloro-2-(pyridin-4-ylmethoxy) -[1,1';2',1"] terphenyl-3"carboxylic acid;

5-chloro-2-(pyridin-3-ylmethoxy) -[1,1';2',1"] terphenyl-3"carboxylic acid;

5-chloro-2-cyclohexylmethoxy -[1,1';2',1"]terphenyl-3"carboxylic acid;

5-chloro-2-(thiophen-3-ylmethoxy) -[1,1';2',1"] terphenyl-3"carboxylic acid;

5-chloro-2-(thiophen-2-ylmethoxy) -[1,1';2',1"] terphenyl-3"carboxylic acid;

5-chloro-2-cyclopentylmethoxy -[1,1';2',1"]terphenyl-3"carboxylic acid;

2"-{[(4-Fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}-5-[(methyloxy)carbonyl]-5"-(trifluoromethyl)-1,1':2',1"-terphenyl-3-carboxylic acid;

5-Chloro-2"-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-1,1':2',1"-terphenyl-2-carboxylic acid;

4-(Methoxy)-2"-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-1,1':2',1"-terphenyl-2-carboxylic acid;

2"-{[(2,4-Difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}-4-(propanoylamino)-5"-(trifluoromethyl)-1,1':2',1"-terphenyl-2-carboxylic acid;

2"-{[(2,4-Difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}-4-[(2-methylpropanoyl)amino]-5"-(trifluoromethyl)-1,1':2',1"-terphenyl-2-carboxylic acid;

5-(2-Oxo-1-pyrrolidinyl)-2"-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5"-(trifluoromethyl)-1,1':2',1"-terphenyl-3-carboxylic acid;

2"-{[(4-Fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}-5"-(trifluoromethyl)-1,1':2',1"-terphenyl-3,5-dicarboxylic acid;

2"-{[(4-Fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}-5-{[(2-methylpropyl)amino]carbonyl}-5"-(trifluoromethyl)-1,1':2',1"-terphenyl-3-carboxylic acid;

6-[2'-{[(4-Fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}-5"-(trifluoromethyl)-2-biphenyl]-2-pyrazinecarboxylic acid;

2"-{[(4-Fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}-5-(propanoylamino)-5"-(trifluoromethyl)-1,1':2',1"-terphenyl-3-carboxylic acid;

2"-[(Phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-(propanoylamino)-5"-(trifluoromethyl)-1,1':2',1"-terphenyl-3-carboxylic acid;

2"-{[(2,4-Difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}-5-(propanoylamino)-5"-(trifluoromethyl)-1,1':2',1"-terphenyl-3-carboxylic acid;

5"-Chloro-5-{[(methyloxy)acetyl]amino}-2"-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-1,1':2',1"-terphenyl-3-carboxylic acid;

5"-Chloro-2"-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-[(2-thienylacetyl)amino]-1,1':2',1"-terphenyl-3-carboxylic acid;

5"-Chloro-2"-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5-([(phenylmethyl)oxy]acetyl)amino)-1,1':2',1"-terphenyl-3-carboxylic acid;

5-([(1-Acetyl-4-piperidiny)carbonyl]amino)-5"-chloro-2"-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-1,1':2',1"-terphenyl-3-carboxylic acid;

5"-Chloro-5-[(phenylacetyl)amino]-2"-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-1,1':2',1"-terphenyl-3-carboxylic acid;

5"-Chloro-5-([(3,5-dimethyl-4-isoxazolyl)carbonyl]amino)-2"-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-1,1':2',1"-terphenyl-3-carboxylic acid;

5"-Chloro-5-[(3-methylbutanoyl)amino]-2"-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-1,1':2',1"-terphenyl-3-carboxylic acid;

5"-Chloro-5-(glycylamino)-2"-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-1,1':2',1"-terphenyl-3-carboxylic acid;

2"-[(Phenylmethyl)oxy]-4-(propanoylamino)-1,1':2',1"-terphenyl-2-carboxylic acid;

4-[(2-Methylpropanoyl)amino]-2"-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-1,1':2',1"-terphenyl-2-carboxylic acid;

5-Cyano-2"-([(2,4-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)-5"-(trifluoromethyl)-1,1':2',1"-terphenyl-3-carboxylic acid;

5"-Bromo-5-cyano-2"-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-1,1':2',1"-terphenyl-3-carboxylic acid;

5-Cyano-2"-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5"-(trifluoromethyl)-1,1':2',1"-terphenyl-3-carboxylic acid;

5-(Aminocarbonyl)-2"-([(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)-5"-(trifluoromethyl)-1,1':2',1"-terphenyl-3-carboxylic acid;

2"-([(4-Fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)-5-[(2-hydroxyethyl)amino]carbonyl}-5"-(trifluoromethyl)-1,1':2',1"-terphenyl-3-carboxylic acid;

2"-([(4-Fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)-5-[(3-pyridinylmethyl)amino]carbonyl}-5"-(trifluoromethyl)-1,1':2',1"-terphenyl-3-carboxylic acid;

6-{5'-Chloro-2'-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-2-biphenyl}-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;

6-(5'-Chloro-2'-([(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy)-2-biphenyl)-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;

6-(5'-Chloro-2'-{[(2,4-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}-2-biphenyl)-2-pyridinecarboxylic acid;

2-[2'-{[(4-Fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}-5'-(trifluoromethyl)-2-biphenyl]-4-pyridinecarboxylic acid;

3-Amino-6-[2'-{[(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}-5'-(trifluoromethyl)-2-biphenyl]-2-pyrazinecarboxylic acid;

4-(Acetylamino)-2"-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-5"-(trifluoromethyl)-1,1':2',1"-terphenyl-2-carboxylic acid;

4-(Acetylamino)-2"-{[(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}-5"-(trifluoromethyl)-1,1':2',1"-terphenyl-2-carboxylic acid;

4-(Acetylamino)-2"-{[(2,4-difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}-5"-(trifluoromethyl)-1,1':2',1"-terphenyl-2-carboxylic acid;

4-Methyl-2"-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-1,1':2',1"-terphenyl-2-carboxylic acid;

2"-{[(2,4-Difluorophenyl)methyl]oxy}-4-methyl-5"-(trifluoromethyl)-1,1':2',1"-terphenyl-2-carboxylic acid;

2-(4-Fluorobenzyl)oxy-5-fluoro[1,1',2,2']terphenyl-3"-carboxylic acid;

2-(2,4-Difluorobenzyl)oxy-5-fluoro[1,1',2,2']terphenyl-3"-carboxylic acid;

2'-{6-Chloro-3-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-2-pyridinyl}-3-biphenylcarboxylic acid;

5-Amino-2'-{6-chloro-3-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-2-pyridinyl}-3-biphenylcarboxylic acid;

4"-Chloro-2"-[(phenylmethyl)oxy]-1,1':2',1"-terphenyl-2-carboxylic acid; and

6"Fluoro-2-benzoyloxy-[1,1':2',1"]terphenyl-3"-carboxylic acid; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 together with a pharmaceutical carrier and/or excipient.

9-10. (Canceled)

11. (Withdrawn) A method of treating an animal subject suffering from a condition which is mediated by the action of PGE₂ at EP₁ receptors which comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

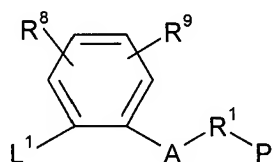
12. (Withdrawn) A method of treating an animal subject suffering from a pain, or an inflammatory, immunological, bone, neurodegenerative or renal disorder, which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

13. (Withdrawn) A method of treating an animal subject suffering from inflammatory pain, neuropathic pain or visceral pain which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

14-16. (Canceled)

17. (Withdrawn) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 comprising:

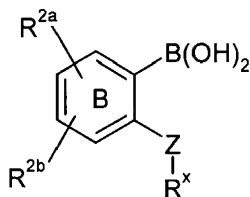
reacting a compound of formula (IV):



(IV)

wherein R⁸, R⁹, A, and R¹ are as hereinbefore defined above for a compound of formula (I), L¹ is a leaving group and P is an optional protecting group;

with a compound of formula (III):



(III)

wherein R^{2a} , R^{2b} , B, Z, and R^x are as hereinbefore defined above for a compound of formula (I);
and where required converting:
one group A to another group A, and/or
one group R^x to another group R^x ;
and where required carrying out the following optional steps in any order:
effecting deprotection; and/or
converting one group R^1 to another group R^1 ; and/or
forming a derivative of the compound of formula (I) so formed.

18. (Canceled)
19. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 11, wherein said animal is human.
20. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 12, wherein said animal is human.
21. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 13, wherein said animal is human.